

Remarks/Arguments

The allowance of claims 17-23 and 33-37 is acknowledged.

Rejected claims 2-7, 14, and 26 have been cancelled.

Claims 8-10, 15, 16, 27, and 28 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, with an indication that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of their base claims and intervening claims. All of these claims have been rewritten as suggested.

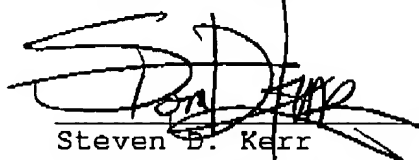
In summary, two groups of claims (17-23 and 33-37) are allowed. Rejected claims (2-7, 14, and 26) have been cancelled and objected-to claims (8-10, 15, 16, 27, and 28) are rewritten as suggested in the Office Action to include the limitations of their base claims and intervening claims. Thus, pending claims 8-10, 15-23, 27-28, and 33-37 are in condition for allowance because all requirements of the Official Action have been met. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore earnestly solicited.

The amendment and cancellation of claims herein is done solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution of the present patent application. There should be no implication made that such amendment and cancellation is done for any reason related to patentability. No implications that Applicant concurs or agrees with the positions taken in the Official Action regarding the prior art or its application to the claimed subject matter should be made; and, in fact Applicant does not concur or agree.

Applicant reserves the right to pursue subject matter of claims cancelled and/or amended herein in a subsequent continuing patent application.

Naturally, should the Examiner have questions regarding this Amendment or any of the pending claims of this application, she is invited to phone the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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